



# NEWS

CONTACT: Lt. Joe Whiteford  
(916) 657-7202

Media Relations Office  
2555 First Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95818

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHP OFFICERS LEAVE FOR HURRICANE DISASTER ZONE

This morning, 116 California Highway Patrol officers departed for the devastated southeastern United States. The officers will work directly with the Louisiana State Police on a multi-faceted mission involving patrol activities, protection of evacuation camps, escorting supply convoys, and assisting with evacuations of inhabitants from the devastated areas. CHP patrol units will be traveling in convoy to Tucson, Arizona where they will be housed overnight, continuing on to Louisiana the following day.

The deployment is in response to a mutual aid request from authorities in Louisiana which was immediately signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. "At the direction of Governor Schwarzenegger, the State of California stands ready to help our fellow citizens in the Southeast. The CHP will do whatever we can to help the victims of this terrible disaster," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown.

The CHP officers are part of the Department's Special Operations Team and will take with them 40 uniquely equipped all-terrain vehicles and three helicopters. The officers and equipment are being deployed from throughout the state. The CHP contingent departed from the CHP Academy in West Sacramento as a unit.

Arrangements can be made starting Tuesday for members of the California media wishing to interview or photograph the CHP contingent in Louisiana by calling Lieutenant Joe Whiteford of CHP's Office of Media Relations at (916) 657-7202 or (916) 208-5974.

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